SS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

DATE

#### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provide by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

the over docker sheet. (SEE h	NOTROCTIONS ON THE REV	ERBE OF THE FORMS				
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS		
CHERYL FLING				NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC.		
(b) County of Residence	me, Address, Telephone N squire P.C.  DICTION (Place an "X"  3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)  1 4 Diversity	in One Box Only)	Citize	County of Residence of NOTE: IN LAND LAND Attorneys (If Known)  TIZENSHIP OF P (For Diversity Cases Only) Pen of This State	PRINCIPAL PARTI TF DEF 1 1 1 Incorporated of Business In 2 1 Incorporated of Business In 2 1 Incorporated of Business In 2 1 2 Incorporated of Business Incorporated Inco	IES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)  PTF DEF  or Principal Place
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110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise  REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	PERSONAL INJUR'  362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability  368 Asbestos Persona Injury Product Liability  PERSONAL PROPER' 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending  380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability  PRISONER PETITION  PRISONER PETITION  510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: 530 General 535 Death Penalty	Y	0 Agriculture 0 Other Food & Drug 5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Liquor Laws 0 R.R. & Truck 0 Airline Regs. 0 Occupational Safety/Health 0 Other LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 0 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act 0 Railway Labor Act 0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 3 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee 5 Other Immigration Actions	422 Appeal 28 USC 158   423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157   423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157   PROPERTY RIGHTS   820 Copyrights   830 Patent 840 Trademark   840 Trademark   861 HIA (1395ff)   862 Black Lung (923)   863 DIWC/DIWW (405(	410 Antitrust
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VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	UNDER F.R.C.P.	IS A CLASS ACTION 23	EMAND \$	CHECK YES o  JURY DEMA	only if demanded in complaint:  ND:   Yes   No	
VIII. RELATED CAS		JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER	W 100 L7110
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SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

## Case 2:11-cv-06398 GEED S PAGE BOST RICHE 40/13/11 Page 2 of 10

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be assignment to appropriate calendar.	used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of					
Address of Plaintiff: 119 N 5th St #2, Oxferd PA 19363						
Address of Defendant: 567 Prodential Road Hursham PA 190214						
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:						
(Use Reverse Side For Ad	lditional Space)					
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation an (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))	d any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?  Yes No No					
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes No					
RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Case Number: Judge	Deta Tampinatadı					
Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated,					
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:						
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year						
Yes No Yes No						
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3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier nu						
terminated action in this court?	Yes No 🗹					
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights	case filed by the same individual?  Yes No No					
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)						
<ul> <li>A. Federal Question Cases:</li> <li>1. □ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts</li> </ul>	<ul><li>B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:</li><li>1. □ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts</li></ul>					
2. □ FELA	2. □ Airplane Personal Injury					
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. □ Assault, Defamation					
4. □ Antitrust	4. □ Marine Personal Injury					
5. □ Patent	5. ☐ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury					
6. □ Labor-Management Relations	6.   Other Personal Injury (Please					
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7. □ Civil Rights	7. □ Products Liability					
8.   Habeas Corpus	8. □ Products Liability — Asbestos					
9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases					
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11. All other Federal Question Cases 15 U.S.C. § 1699	(x lease specify)					
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□ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and be \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; □ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	elief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of					
Refer other than monetary damages is sought.	37100					
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NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there	has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.					
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or we except as noted above.	ithin one year previously terminated action in this court					
DATE: 10-12-11 (Mig TWI Kimm)	57100					
MAIE: Attorney at Jaw	Attorney I D #					

CIV. 609 (6/08)

#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE M	ANAGEMENT TRACK DESIG	<u>SNATION FORM</u>		
Cheryl Fling v.	; ; ;	CIVIL ACTION		
NCO Financial Sys	items, Inc.	NO.		
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(c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ( )				
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.				
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(f) Standard Management –	Cases that do not fall into any on	e of the other tracks.	( )	
10-13-11 Date	Attorney-at-law	Attorney for	-	
X15-540-8888	811-188-2869	LimmelCcRditla	W.Com	

**FAX Number** 

E-Mail Address

(Civ. 660) 10/02

Telephone

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CHERYL FLING,	)
Plaintiff	)
v.	) Case No.:
NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC.,	) COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR ) JURY TRIAL
Defendant	) ) (Unlawful Debt Collection Practices)
	•

#### **COMPLAINT**

CHERYL FLING ("Plaintiff"), by and through her attorneys, KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C., alleges the following against NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC. ("Defendant"):

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15
 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA").

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 2. Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), which states that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States.
- 3. Defendant has its corporate headquarters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and as such, personal jurisdiction is established.
  - 4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).

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#### **PARTIES**

- 5. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Oxford, Pennsylvania.
- 6. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3).
- 7. Also, Plaintiff is a person granted a cause of action under the FDCPA. See 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a) and Wenrich v. Cole, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18687 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 22, 2000).
- 8. Defendant is a national debt collection company with its corporate headquarters located at 507 Prudential Road, Horsham, PA 19044.
- 9. Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6), and repeatedly contacted Plaintiff in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 10. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

#### PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

- 11. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA") is a comprehensive statute, which prohibits a catalog of activities in connection with the collection of debts by third parties.

  See 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq*. The FDCPA imposes civil liability on any person or entity that violates its provisions, and establishes general standards of debt collector conduct, defines abuse, and provides for specific consumer rights. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.
- 12. The operative provisions of the FDCPA declare certain rights to be provided to or claimed by debtors, forbid deceitful and misleading practices, prohibit harassing and abusive tactics, and proscribe unfair or unconscionable conduct, both generally and in a specific list of disapproved practices.
- 13. In particular, the FDCPA broadly enumerates several practices considered contrary to its stated purpose, and forbids debt collectors from taking such action. The

substantive heart of the FDCPA lies in three broad prohibitions. First, a "debt collector may not engage in any conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692d. Second, a "debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e. And third, a "debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692f. The FDCPA is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous collectors, whether or not there exists a valid debt, broadly prohibits unfair or unconscionable collection methods, conduct which harasses, oppresses or abuses any debtor, and any false, deceptive or misleading statements in connection with the collection of a debt.

- 14. In enacting the FDCPA, the United States Congress found that "[t]here is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors," which "contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." 15 U.S.C. § 1692a. Congress additionally found existing laws and procedures for redressing debt collection injuries to be inadequate to protect consumers. 15 U.S.C. § 1692b.
- 15. Congress enacted the FDCPA to regulate the collection of consumer debts by debt collectors. The express purposes of the FDCPA are to "eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 16. At all pertinent times hereto, Defendant was hired to collect a consumer debt and attempted to collect that debt from Plaintiff.
- 17. Upon information and belief, the debt arose out of transactions that were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 18. Beginning in or around March 2011, Defendant constantly and continuously placed collection calls to Plaintiff on her home telephone seeking and demanding payment for an alleged debt.
- 19. Defendant's calls originated from 1-800-688-3390, which the undersigned has confirmed is a number that belongs to Defendant.
- 20. Defendant contacted Plaintiff, on average, at least once a day, sometimes contacting Plaintiff twice a day.
- 21. In addition to repeatedly calling Plaintiff, Defendant also left voicemail messages on her home answering machine, telling her to "call them back right away," in order to create a false sense of urgency to cause Plaintiff to contact them.
- 22. When Plaintiff did not respond to Defendant's continuous and repeated calls to her home telephone, Defendant began contacting her on her cellular telephone.
- 23. Defendant contacted Plaintiff, on average, at least once a day on her cellular telephone.
- 24. Most recently, Defendant contacted Plaintiff on her cellular phone on September 2, 2011, at 2:53 p.m.
- 25. The repetitive calls to Plaintiff were intended by Defendant to be disturbing, harassing, and an invasion of privacy, so that Plaintiff would pay the alleged debt.

26. Defendant intentionally wanted to harm Plaintiff and cause injury, stress, fear and humiliation, believing that to do so would substantially increase the likelihood of the debt being paid by Plaintiff.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF APPLICABLE LAW

- 27. The FDCPA is a strict liability statute. <u>Taylor v. Perrin, Landry, deLaunay & Durand</u>, 103 F.3d 1232 (5th Cir. 1997). "Because the Act imposes strict liability, a consumer need not show intentional conduct by the debt collector to be entitled to damages." <u>Russell v. Equifax A.R.S.</u>, 74 F. 3d 30 (2d Cir. 1996); <u>see also Gearing v. Check Brokerage Corp.</u>, 233 F.3d 469 (7th Cir. 2000) (holding unintentional misrepresentation of debt collector's legal status violated FDCPA); <u>Clomon v. Jackson</u>, 988 F. 2d 1314 (2d Cir. 1993).
- 28. The FDCPA is a remedial statute, and therefore must be construed liberally in favor of the debtor. Sprinkle v. SB&C Ltd., 472 F. Supp. 2d 1235 (W.D. Wash. 2006). The remedial nature of the FDCPA requires that courts interpret it liberally. Clark v. Capital Credit & Collection Services, Inc., 460 F. 3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2006). "Because the FDCPA, like the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) 15 U.S.C §1601 et seq., is a remedial statute, it should be construed liberally in favor of the consumer." Johnson v. Riddle, 305 F. 3d 1107 (10th Cir. 2002).
- 29. The FDCPA is to be interpreted in accordance with the "least sophisticated" consumer standard. See Jeter v. Credit Bureau, Inc., 760 F.2d 1168 (11th Cir. 1985); Graziano v. Harrison, 950 F. 2d 107 (3<sup>rd</sup> Cir. 1991); Swanson v. Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc., 869 F.2d 1222 (9th Cir. 1988). The FDCPA was not "made for the protection of experts, but for the public that vast multitude which includes the ignorant, the unthinking, and the credulous, and the fact that a false statement may be obviously false to those who are trained and

experienced does not change its character, nor take away its power to deceive others less experienced." <u>Id.</u> The least sophisticated consumer standard serves a dual purpose in that it ensures protection of all consumers, even naive and trusting, against deceptive collection practices, and protects collectors against liability for bizarre or idiosyncratic interpretations of collection notices. <u>Clomon</u>, 988 F. 2d at 1318.

# COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 30. In its actions to collect a debt, Defendant violated the FDCPA in one or more of the following ways:
  - a. Defendant violated the FDCPA generally;
  - b. Defendant violated §1692d of the FDCPA when it harassed, oppressed or abused Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt;
  - c. Defendant violated §1692d(5) of the FDCPA when it caused Plaintiff's phone to ring, and engaged Plaintiff in conversation repeatedly or continuously with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass Plaintiff; and
  - d. Defendant violated §1692f of the FDCPA when it used unfair and unconscionable means in connection with the collection of a debt.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CHERYL FLING, respectfully prays for a judgment as follows:

- a. All actual damages suffered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- b. Statutor y damages of \$1,000.00 for the violation of the FDCPA pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);
- c. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693k(a)(3); and

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d. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.

#### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, CHERYL FLING, demands a jury trial in this

case.

6 Date: 10-12-11

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ K 3 @ Craig Thor Kimmel

Attorney ID No. 57100

Tara L. Patterson

Attorney ID No. 88343

Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.

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